

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /128 W

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P R 011256Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4797

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CI CPAC

CHMAAG TAIWAN

S E C R E T PHNOM PEN 1572

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT CB

SUBJECT: ROC ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA

REF: STATE 020815 (NOTAL)

1. WITHDRAWAL OF ROC PERSONNEL PERTAINS ONLY TO THE FIVE C-47 AIR CREWS WHICH ARRIVED 19 NOV 73. THESE CREWS WERE PROVIDED AT REQUEST OF GKR TO FLY TRANSPORT MISSIONS TO RELIEVE SOME OF THE KAF CREWS TO FLY THE AC-47 GUNSHIPS. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE ROC INTENDS TO WITHDRAW THE 12 INSTRUCTOR PILOTS AT BATTAMBANG OR THE 7 ARTILLERY INSTRUCTORS IN PHNOM PENH. IN FACT, ON JAN 30 ROC MISSION OFFICER INDICATED THAT THE 12 BATTAMBANG INSTRUCTORS WERE ANXIOUSLY AWAITING COMPLETION OF RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION SO THEY COULD BEGIN TRAINING KAF UNDERGRADUATE PILOTS IN THE T-28.

2. THE FIVE C-47 CREWS (FIVE PILOTS, FIVE CO-PILOTS AND FIVE FLIGHT ENGINEERS) WERE PROVIDED TO FLY TRANSPORT MISSIONS ONLY. HOWEVER, AFTER ARRIVAL AND FLYING A FEW MISSIONS, ROC DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE IF ONE OF THESE CREWS WERE LOST OR CAPTURED. THE ROC MISSION IN PHNOM PENH WAS DIRECTED TO CHANGE THE ROLE TO ONE OF TRAINING, REMAINING IN THE PHNOM

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PENH LOCAL FLIGHT AREA.

3. CONVERSION TO A TRAINING ROLE WAS NOT POSSIBLE. A LONG SOUGHT PROGRAM OF TRAINING 10 KAF BASIC PILOTS TO C-47 CO-PILOT WAS APPROVED IN LATE NOVEMBER, AND THESE PILOTS STARTED TRAINING IN TAIPEI IN DECEMBER UNDER THE CB MAP. THIS DEPLETED THE RANKS OF AVAILABLE KAF PILOTS TO TRAIN IN THE C-47. FURTHER, WITH A SHORTAGE OF MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL, KAF CONCENTRATED EFFORTS ON THE A*-47 GUNSHIP AT THE EXPENSE OF THE TRANSPORT. THE ROC MISSION ALSO INDICATED THAT THERE WERE NO CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS AMONG THE FIVE AIRCREWS, THEREFORE NO CAPABILITY FOR INSTRUCTION EXISTED.

4. MEMBER OF ROC MISSION COL. CHIANG HSUN INFORMED DEPUTY CHIEF, MEDTC ON 30 JAN THAT ROC HAD DECIDED TO WITHDRAW THE FIVE C-47 CREWS. AND THAT THEY WOULD DEPART ON 31 JAN 74. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT, IF REQUIREMENT FOR C-47 INSTRUCTORS AROSE IN THE FUTURE, ROC WOULD

CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS MADE FOR ASSISTANCE.

5. IN FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH ROC MISSION PERSONNEL, WE HAVE CONTINUALLY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF THE ROC AIR AND ARTILLERY INSTRUCTORS, AND THE EFFECT THIS ASSISTANCE HAS HAD ON RECENT FANK PERFORMANCE. THIS APPROACH PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE RETURN OF THESE INSTRUCTORS AFTER THEY WERE WITHDRAWN IN SEPTEMBER 73.

6. DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FURTHER APPROACHES TO ROC WOULD BE PRUDUCTIVE IN THE CASE OF THE C-47 CREWS.
ENDERS

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